Demand II.—Agriculture and Panchayats—Rs. 2·22 lakhs.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 2, 21,619, the votable demand under "Agriculture", "Avenues", "Panchayats" and "Veterinary". Under Agriculture proper—2A—, the amount proposed to be spent in 1102 is Rs. 56,469. Under 2B, Avenues, the amount is Rs. 9,140. Under C, Panchayats, the demand is Rs. 1,42,940. And under 2D, Veterinary, the demand is Rs. 13,071.

I shall now make a brief reference to the demand under the various heads.

2. Under "Agriculture proper" the total demand including the non-votable amount is as already stated Rs. 56,469. This comprises Rs. 4,108 for my office establishment charges, Rs. 6,942—the charges on account of the Field staff such as Agricultural Inspectors, the Horticultural Inspector, fieldman, peons, Minor Irrigation Overseers and their peons, Rs. 557 for leave allowances, Rs. 71,131 for travelling allowances, supplies, services and contingencies, thus making a total of Rs 18,738. Under "Supplies and Services", there is a provision of Rs. 750. This amount is provided for purchasing weather recording instruments (Rs. 250), chemicals for the Agricultural School in the Central Farm against a provision of Rs. 4,700 for which there was sanction from the Government. The reduction in the provision is obviously for want of funds.

The provision of Rs. 1,400 under "Miscellaneous" is on account of stipends for the Darbar scholars undergoing training in Agriculture at Poona—Rs. 990, for journals—Rs. 240, and for demonstrations and Farm prizes—Rs. 200, as against a sum of Rs. 850 proposed by me. This House will be pleased to see that the Government had to cut down the allotment for want of funds.

Operations in the Central Farm.—The total demand under the head is Rs. 34,362. This includes the establishment charges amounting to Rs. 12,262, Rs. 1,000 for travelling allowance and Rs. 21,000 for works in the Farm. The establishment charges include the pay of the Chemistry Assistant, the Entomologist and Mycologist. The pay of these officers, strictly speaking, is not debitable to the Farm, as they have duties outside the Farm. The pay of these specialists and their peons amount to Rs. 4,719, and their travelling allowance is Rs. 1,000. The establishment charges on account of the pay of the Manager, of Demonstrators, two clerks and two peons is Rs. 2,904. Deducting these, the expenditure proper on account of working

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the Farm is nearly Rs. 25,000 for 1102 against an anticipated revenue of Rs. 13,500, or in other words, the net expenditure on account of the Farm is only Rs. 11,500.

The provision of Rs 2,000 in the Farm under Miscellaneous quotations is on account of the following:—

	Rs.
Maintenance of roads ..	300
Repair of fences ..	400
Do to boundary walls ..	150
Lighting charges ..	150
Purchase and repair of vessels ..	200
Conveyance, etc., charges ..	300
Irrigation appliances—Mhote, buckets, ropes, etc. ..	200
Silt clearing of tanks and wells ..	300
Total	2,000

In connection with the demand on account of the Farm, I would invite the kind attention of this House to page 5 of the memorandum explaining the details of the budget, wherein you will find it stated that the provision for Farm Operations have been limited to the dire necessities. The amounts allowed by the Government fall considerably short of the estimates submitted by me, and I am afraid that with the reduction of allotments proposed for the current year the efficiency of work in the Farm is suffering, and will continue to suffer in the ensuing year. This may affect the income also.

In reply to the numerous criticisms made in this House at the time of the discussion of the budget last year, I placed before this House a statement of the work done by the department during the last ten years. Please see pages 352 to 362 of the Report of the budget session. To all right thinking men there need not be any cause for alarm or despair regarding the Farm. In spite of the information furnished, I suspect that even now a few of the Hon'ble Members have not been able to understand the object with which the Central Farm was opened and organised. I invited the attention of the Members of this House to the Government order, dated 17th February 1917, Ref. on C. No. 435 of 1090, to remove all misapprehensions on the subject. I give below an extract from the said proceedings.

"**Para 4, Experimental work**—Experimental work will be undertaken at the Central Farm. The history of Agricultural Farms in the State has been somewhat unfortunate, but there have been well-defined causes for their comparative failure, in the past. The fate of the Central Viyyur

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Farm might have been avoided by the selection of a more suitable site and by more effective superintendence and management. The five Agricultural Farms were equally unfortunate, but this result is easily explicable. Inadequate trained staff involving totally inadequate supervision and the dissipation of effort and funds were the primary causes for their failure. It is doubtful if Taluk Agricultural Farms serve any very generally useful purpose. As centres of demonstration, Farms have not ordinarily proved a success in attracting agriculturists even in their immediate vicinity, and as a means of demonstration a Taluk Farm has only limited advantages over a single Central Farm. In the first place, for purposes of general demonstration a single farm in a taluk is only a few degrees removed so far as inaccessibility to the general body of cultivators is concerned, from a single Central Farm. If farms are primarily to serve as demonstration centres, the ideal would have to be one village, one farm, and this is financially impossible. The Darbar consider that the farms to be established should be mainly for experimental purposes; the demonstration of methods and experiments proved to be successful, being left to other agencies and means which will be dealt with later. It follows from this that in establishing a farm it is more essential to ensure that all reasonable diversities of soil and condition are experimented with than that there should be a large number of farms scattered about the country. A Central Farm in the vicinity of Trichur and an Experimental Station in the backwater region for cocoanut and paddy grown in these areas will cover all reasonable varieties of soil and climatic conditions in the State to ensure fairly comprehensive experiments being made, and it is now proposed to open such a Central Farm and Experimental Station. Orders will be issued separately in regard to the constitution of the Central Farm and Experimental Stations, their management and the character of the work to be undertaken.

"It will suffice here to point out in general outlines the work that the Farm is eventually intended to undertake. In the experiments to be made, apart from varietl, manurial, and caltural work, on the ordinary crops, special attention will be paid to the growing of fruit, and the cultivation of vegetables and fodder crops. Eventually, a small diary and stock-breeding farm will be attached to the central institution. In connection with the subject of the Farm, reference may here be made to work of an educational character which will be eventually undertaken at this institution. It is proposed that agricultural instruction should be given at the Farm. This will be generally of two kinds. In the first place, a course will be instituted for the training of maistries or agricultural foremen, and in the second place, provision will be made for the sons of agriculturists who desire a sound practical agricultural education joined with a certain measure of theoretical instruction which will not merely enable them to cultivate their lands successfully, but will help to widen their outlook on their profession and on life generally. A highly scientific agricultural education is obtainable at the various Agricultural Colleges that have been opened in India, but what is more especially a desideratum is a more practical and less highly scientific course of training for the children of agriculturists who may wish to themselves cultivate or supervise the cultivation of their own lands."

The Seed and Manure Depot.—The expenditure to be incurred for purchasing manures for sale to ryots is met from "Advances recoverable", and the sale proceeds are credited to "Advances." This accounts for the absence of any large provision.

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Rs. 40 is on account of the rent of a building hired for storing manure at Irinjalakkuda.

Cattle-breeding.—The allotment of Rs. 600 is for paying grants for stud bulls stationed by private agencies. The rules regarding the grants to stud bulls have been given wide publicity. The expenditure incurred on account of maintaining stud bulls in the Central Farm and at the Cocoanut Station is met from the allotments for those institutions.

Cocoanut Station.—Coming now to the Cocoanut Station, the total expenditure for 1102 for which the sanction of this House is sought for is for a sum of Rs. 1,054 for establishment charges and Rs. 1,675 for maintenance and other items of expenditure.

The details of Rs. 1,675 are the following:—

		Rs.
Casual labour	....	300
Cattle food	....	300
Cost of plants	....	100
Manures	....	625
Levelling and new planting	....	100
Repair of fences	....	150
Repair of revetment walls	....	100
Total	....	1,675

As observed in the memorandum, the allotment for the Cocoanut Station is only for meeting the dire necessities. There is not much scope for the development of the estate next year.

Avenues.—The demand on this account is Rs. 9,140, of which Rs. 1,120 is the cost of establishment and the remaining Rs. 8,000 is for maintaining the newly planted avenues, repair charges, watering and weeding charges and new plantings.

The general policy of the Government regarding the planting and maintenance of avenues was once declared by the Government, and the necessary amendments have been embodied in *the Land Revenue Manual.*

The details of Rs. 8,000 under "Avenues—other charges" are the following:—

		Rs.
Weeding charges	....	2,000
Hoeing and earthing up	....	600
Repairs to fences	....	3,300
Manures	....	200
Implements	....	100
Re-numbering new plantings and filling up gaps..		1,500

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	Rs.
Miscellaneous, such as repair of cycles, cost of removing windfallen branches, etc., ...	200
Total....	8,000

About 4,000 plants can be planted with Rs. 1,500.

President.—Have you explained to the House about the provision of Rs. 7,000 under "Casual labour"? I do not know whether you are referring to it now. "Casual labour" comes to a very large amount. What is this "Casual labour"?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The extent of the Farm is 300 acres. We are cultivating nearly 130 acres including the orchards. I will give the figures. The land in the northern block also is to be cultivated.

President.—It is considered desirable to give particulars o the amount—how much for cultivation, how much for coolies employed, etc.,—so that the House may have a clear account. You had originally put Rs. 8,500. I have reduced it by thousand, taking into consideration the cattle sold out in the course of this year.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It was the old ones unfit for work that were sold out, but the young stock is growing. I have made provision for this also.

President.—Do you require any amount for bringing up young ones? I thought that the expenditure can be cut down by rupees thousand. What is the amount for new plantations?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Rs. 1,500, Sir. I have made my calculations with regard to this. It will come to Rs. 2½ for each plant.

President.—What are the details, please, for arriving at the expenditure of Rs. 7,000 provided under "Casual labour" in the Central Farm? There is an impression in the minds of the public that a considerable sum of money is being wasted. I ask the details to remove such a misconception.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It includes the expenses for paddy cultivation, for the growing of fruits and other vegetables, and wages for coolies, etc.

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The following are the details for the provision of Rs. 8,500 provided in the budget proposals for the year 1102.

Name of crop.	*Extent.*	*Rate.*	*Amount.*
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.
Single crop wet paddy	18	25	450
Dry land paddy	23½	15	352
Myal paddy	7½	9	67
Double crop wet land paddy, including experimental plots	15½	25	387
Do second crop do	16¼	7¼	280
Root crops	5¼	70	367
Sugar cane (new plantings)	2	150	300
Do (ratoon)	1	100	100
Plantains (new planting)	6		250
Do (ratoon)	20		
Horse-grams	20	13½	270
Other pulses	6½	13½	90
Gingelly (including dry)	3¾	15	60
Chama	10	12	120
Other millets	2	15	30
Jute, lab-lab, etc.	2	20	40
Guinea and other fodder grass	8	20	160
Vegetables	2½	250	625

President.—They do not come under the vegetables? What are the varieties?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We try a number of varieties. We grow these vegetables to supply seeds to various schools.

President.—What are the different kinds of vegetables? വെണ്ടക്ക, തക്കാളി, etc., please say like that.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Beans, brinjals, etc.

President.—We do not know all these technical names. Give the varieties as മത്തൻ, കുമ്പളങ്ങ, and all that, so that we may have a very clear idea as to what all vegetables are grown in the Farm. If you say "vegetables," we do not understand you, because we are familiar only with certain kinds of vegetables.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We try these പടവലങ്ങ, പാവൽക്ക, etc. Next—

Pine apples (new planting) 1 acre at Rs. 200.
Pine apples (old) 2 acres at Rs. 250 in all.

President.—What else?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—These are all grown on a farming scale. Chillies, maize, cotton, etc., also are grown on a farming scale on 4 acres.

President.—How much is the expenditure?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Rs. 400. Then, the orchards—Rs. 2,000 for 9 acres, excluding about 2,000 graft mango plants.

President.—Under "orchards", what are the things that come?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Mangoes and pine apples. We have a representative collection of these fruit trees. I can enumerate a lot.

Then, avenues—Rs. 600, and arecanut and cocoanut trees in the northern block—Rs. 300.

President.—Are there fresh plantations or are you only looking after the old ones?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Not new.

Then, experimental works in crops other than paddy—Rs. 700 and Rs. 102 for other miscellaneous crops.

President.—What is the total grant?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—8,500 rupees. This is the figure which I submitted to the Government in the estimate.

Village Panchayats.—The details of the demand on account of Village Panchayats are the following.—

		Rs.
Establishment charges	...	10,741
Irrigation	....	17,821
Sanitation and Conservancy	....	14,618
Communications	....	50,599
Water supply	....	36,778
Water *pandals*	....	4,173
Ayurvedic Dispensaries	...	8,000

Rs. 14,618 under "Sanitation and Conservancy" includes a provision of Rs. 4,090 for lighting. There are in all 353 lamps distributed in 36 Panchayats. The rate per lamp varies from a minimum of Rs. 7 per lamp per year to a maximum of Rs. 15. This variation is due to the fact that in places where there are more lights the expenses are 1 Re. less, while in the case of Panchayats where they have only a lamp or two it may not be possible to maintain the light for anything less than Rs. 15 per mensem. The price of oil also varies with the locality.

It will be observed from the figures placed before this House that liberal grants have been proposed for Minor Irrigation and water supplies and communications. The Member representing Landlords stated that the Government are not paying adequate attention to irrigation and water supplies in rural areas. The Chief Engineer has already placed before this House a full description of the important schemes he has taken up. Under "Minor Irrigation" liberal provision is being made from year to year, and the Government have been and are giving liberal grants for water supply. The House will, therefore, be pleased to observe that the Government have not been neglecting these important matters.

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Veterinary.—The demand for the Veterinary Department, excluding the pay of the Veterinary Inspectors, is Rs. 13,071. The provision of Rs. 2,500 under "Miscellaneous", perhaps, requires some explanation. This amount is required for the supply of bazaar drugs, pay of sweepers, etc., and the purchase of instruments for the several Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries. A full list of instruments proposed to be supplied to the Hospitals has already been placed before this House.

I have now placed before this House full details of the various items of demand under "Agriculture proper," "Avenues," "Panchayats" and "Veterinary," and I have tried to explain the necessity for the expenditure. I trust the House will be unanimous in thinking that the several demands are reasonable. This House has been repeatedly speaking about the necessity for making adequate provision for the satisfactory working of the nation-building departments. I, for my part, am in entire agreement with your use about the nation-building departments and rural reconstruction. The policy of the Government regarding the development of agriculture has been already explained.

In regard to the several criticisms made by the Members of this Council about the working of the Department of Agriculture and Panchayats, I shall make a few observations by way of reply. It is easy to offer explanations when criticisms are of a constructive nature.

The Report of the working of the department for the last year was furnished to all the Members of this Council, and a brief outline of the work of the department was, as already stated, placed before this Council during the last budget session. If, in spite of all available information furnished, a few of the Members still feel that the working of the department is not efficient or the department is not doing any useful work, I can only say that I am sorry for them. I may assure this House that the results achieved by the Agricultural Department of Cochin during the short period of 10 or 11 years of its existence, are not in any way behind those obtained elsewhere. A desire for knowledge of everything that conduces to the prosperity of the State and its people should be the basis of criticisms. Criticisms will then be of a constructive nature, and such criticisms will be useful.

I ask, in all earnestness, is it a sin to have a properly organised farm with the object of conducting experiments with the various *scopes* of the State? Is it a sin to try the cultivation of the various fruit trees? Is it a sin to grow cattle with the special object of improving the live-stock of the State? Is it a

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sin to have a school in the farm for teaching Agriculture to the teachers of the Primary Schools of the State? If all these are sins, I am afraid the Government is a very big sinner.

The Chemist, the Entomologist and the Mycologist have not been provided with the Laboratory for research work. For want of *funds* the Laboratory has not been opened. But these officers are not wasting their time. They are doing very useful work not only in the Farm and in the School but also in the various taluks. During the close of the last year, and for nearly four months this year, their services were utilised for checking the spread of the cocoanut pests. The Entomologist is even now devoting his time to check the further spread of the cocoanut pest. These officers are also engaged in useful district work such as inspection of ryots' lands, delivering lectures, giving advice in the matter of checking insect pests and diseases and inspecting Panchayat officers, and offering useful suggestions for the development of agriculture in the State.

I regret to have to observe that the Member representing Kattur made rather a sweeping remark about the Farm. The Hon'ble Member spent less than two hours some time last week in inspecting a Farm of nearly 300 acres where, as you already know, several important problems are being solved. I do not propose to say anything about the nature of the inspection or of the scrutiny made by the Hon'ble Member. But suffice it to say that such sweeping remarks do not carry conviction.

I appeal to this House to devote your attention to matters connected with agriculture and allied industries and the provision of facilities for giving agricultural education to the masses. We have been the victim of a peculiar educational policy. The Government are fully alive to this, and are now taking steps for giving a more useful system of education to the people for improving the material and moral prosperity of the people of the State.

With these few observations, I again appeal to the House for the grant asked for under the various heads.

President.—What I want is Members must have a clear idea of the various items of the expenditure and for what purpose this large amount is spent. Now, in the light of the information you have given, it will be possible for them to judge whether the expenditure is a proper one or whether it is simply a waste of money. It is for that I put the questions. That is all. Have you done with your explanatory statement? If any further information is wanted by any other Member, of course, you will supply.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—May I know what is the income obtained by selling each item?

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President.—The income will come under the receipt side. Have you estimated all the receipts, Mr. Raman Menon?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The receipts only of some major heads are available. I want to know whether the expenditure that has to be incurred on one item is less than the income. I put this question just to know whether it is profitable to cultivate these items.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I will supply the details in the interval.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I shall get the details from the Member himself. I shall be satisfied, if the Member is able to supply me the figures in the afternoon.

President.—The fact of the matter is that, in the beginning, we have to spend something on certain items which will not yield any profit for some years; for instance, these jack trees and mango trees. They give us yield only after a certain number of years. So we will have to spend at first. It is only after the lapse of certain years that they begin to yield. That will depend upon the particular stages of the growth.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Pine apples and sugarcanes are remunerative crops. We have not incurred any loss.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Is the Hon'ble Member in a position to say whether any of the experiments in this direction was found to be a failure?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We meet with failure now and then. In the case of certain crops which are not grown in the State, we try them, and if we find that they are not suitable, we reject them. In such cases, of course, we have to incur loss.

President.—So only those which are found to bring some profit are retained, and you don't find them to be a loss.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Except occasionally.

President.—Mr. Padmanabha Menon, I do not know whether you have any particular thing in view.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—None, Sir. I want to know whether all the experiments that were carried on were found to be successful.

President.—So far as I have been able to understand, there are certain items which grow successfully.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That depends upon the soil. We have got a congenial soil for certain kinds of trees. There are certain other items which we try and experiment on to see if they grow successfully in our State. If one such experiment is found to be a failure, that is at once given up. So far as our ordinary vegetables are concerned, of course, we meet with no failures, and so we continue cultivating them.

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Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Is this *chama* cultivation found to be a paying concern?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Not a very paying concern. We grow them in the system of rotation. We do not grow dry land paddy every year. Instead of allowing the fields to lie fallow, other crops are grown on a system of rotation. It is not wise to allow such grounds to lie fallow. That is the ordinary practice obtaining in the country. We grow root crops in the rotation.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is it not possible to start demonstrative operations in different localities, instead of confining the attention of the Agricultural Department to the Central Farm alone?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Our idea is to start demonstration farms. They have been introduced in several taluks. I cannot say whether we have got the requisite staff for it. Three of our men are now under training. When we get our full staff, we intend starting demonstration work. But till we get our men, we have to be satisfied with demonstration on a smaller scale.

President.—Is demonstration carried on anywhere outside the farm?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In the Chittur Taluk, the Trichur Taluk, in a number of places in the Mukundapuram Taluk and in Kunnamkulam, demonstrations are carried on. There are a few other places. But all these are handicapped by want of a sufficient number of men.

President.—You will get a man from the Poona Agricultural Institute, and how many more do you want?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We want three more men, and we have three men under training.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In the Farm they cultivate vegetables and other things on methods quite known to the ryots. I want to know what is the commercial result of cultivating these things. The ordinary vegetables—these brinjals and other things—are grown in the country in numerous places. And what is the purpose of cultivating them in the Farm? Do we, by cultivating them, get any profit, and is it really necessary for the purpose of experimental farming, to grow these ordinary vegetables?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In every part of the world, people are paying attention to food crops. In Ceylon they started a big campaign by organising societies and associations to grow food crops when they found that all the roots, vegetables and everything were being got down from South India. They start-

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ed the work on a very large scale, simply because they wanted to grow these vegetables. For instance, paddy is grown everywhere; people may ask why should we cultivate paddy which is seen cultivated everywhere? That is not the point. We have to try all sorts of crops which are to be useful for the population of the State, and experiments also have to be conducted, and that is, of course, the reason. While considering the scheme during 1917, particular attention was paid to the growing of vegetables and the growing of fruit trees, apart from the experiments to be conducted. I do not see any point in asking why we should grow these ordinary crops of the State

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The best variety can be produced by applying this scientific manure. I can give an instance. Experiments were tried in the Central Farm in the case of bananas. We can get bigger bunches. Suckers will be taken only after the harvest time. Mr. Raman Menon tried suckers at various stages, and if sucker is taken as soon as it makes its appearance, the bunch will be much bigger. That is a thing which was hitherto unknown to the ryots as well as the Agricultural Superintendent himself.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My question was what was the commercial result of the cultivation of these ordinary vegetables, and the answer is that, after many experiments, they have found out better methods of growing, and all that. That was not at all my point. I want to know whether ordinary cultivation of paddy brings in any profit—say in an acre of land.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—From ordinary cultivation, after deducting the expenses, consequent on the cultivation, value of labour requisite, etc., you get some profit.

President.—The cultivation has not been for finding out the commercial result. Is that what you say?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They are found to be successful commercially also.

President.—You know everything should be reduced to rupees, annas and pies.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Rs. 1,500 is being spent for the cultivation of paddy in the Farm. There is intensive cultivation. It may be a sort of experimental measure which may result at times in failure and at times in success.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I would ask the Hon'ble Member to put away altogether with experiments.

President.—Do you follow the point, Mr. Raman Menon?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes they are a loss, and sometimes gain, as in every other country.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is not a scientific reply. Why should we carry on this mango cultivation?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are many varieties which ordinary ryots may not know.

President.—Is your trial a success or a failure?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—My experience is that we generally get better crops in the Farm than crops grown anywhere just beyond the boundary.

President.—The point is about the money. Whether you get better quality or not is not the question. The point is whether, in the bulk cultivation, you get more than you spend.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In the bulk crop we are not losing any money.

President.—Are you in a position to say whether you get more than what you spend?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know the real figure?

President.—Are the figures available?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I have got accounts in the Farm. None can be had now.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether any methods for improving agricultural operations in the State are being followed—paddy, cocoanut and other things?

President.—Do you refer to intensive cultivation?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Intensive, or not intensive, paddy cultivation is our main occupation. I want to know whether in any parts of Cochin they adopt the methods adopted by the Farm. If there is more yield by applying this Farm manure, then, of course, we should adopt it everywhere. I sent up questions regarding this. They are not answered.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I introduced single seeding of paddy, and it was quite a success. The Agricultural Superintendent advised me to do so, and I tried it, and it was a success. Many are trying.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—With one-third the quantity we got the same seed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Where is the demonstration going on in Kunnamkulam?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Near the High School there is a gentleman there who is growing sugar-cane. He is receiving instruction from the Superintendent of Agriculture. We had given him instructions.

President.—Are the jenmies having demonstration farms under the guidance of the department?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are no Government farms. Jenmies have demonstration farms under the guidance of the department, of only a few cents.

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Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I should like to know what exactly the Chemistry Assistant of the Farm is doing—what exactly is the nature of his work.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We have no laboratory. The Chemistry Assistant is touring about giving advice and delivering lectures.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—People in my constituency are not aware of that.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—When the Chemistry Assistant goes to one place, the Entomologist or Mycologist will go to another place. I have arranged so, and they are supposed to do work in two taluks. The Entomologist is working in this taluk.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur—To avoid discussion, may I request the Member to give such information as is available now?

President.—Mr. Raman Menon, if the statistics are available, much discussion can be avoided. We are all for improving agriculture.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I suppose *the Report* for the last year furnishes plenty of information as to the nature of their work in and outside the Farm.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I think there are different points. Is the Agricultural Superintendent in a position to furnish figures?

President.—Information regarding the true state of things may be supplied. It will avoid much discussion.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I will supply whatever information is available, during the interval.

The House then rose for lunch and re-assembled at 3 p. m.

Motions Nos. 15—17.

Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for Travelling allowance by rupees 100 under A. I. Agriculture.*

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,424 for Agriculture by rupees 5,000.*

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,424 for Agriculture by one rupee.*

Mr. Poulo Mampilli being absent, his motion was considered withdrawn.

President.—I presume that the advantage of the interval has been availed of for getting necessary information from Mr. Raman Menon. Shall I now go on with the cut motions, or is there any further information required on any point?

We shall proceed with the cut motions under Demand No. II. One Member may take up his motion, and

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wherever there is omission, he may be supplemented by the Member following him; so that the motion need not be brought to a division.

Under "Agriculture" there are 3 cut motions. Mr. Poulo Mampilli is absent Then No. 16, Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, and No. 17, Mr. A. Sankara Puduval. Mr. Sankara Puduval's motion is a token motion and Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar's a substantial one, to reduce the allotment by 5,000 rupees.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I have asked for a reduction of Rs. 5,000 on "Agriculture proper."

The actual expenditure under Agriculture in 1100 is about 19,500 rupees. This year's budget has provided for about Rs. 24,500, that is, an increase of about 5,000. Until and unless the Agricultural Department will work on right lines, I do not think it proper for this House to recommend an ever-increasing expenditure for the department. The department is certainly necessary, and should not be ended, but it is high time to mend its working methods. As long as the working methods are not to be changed, let not the expenditure be allowed to increase, and there will be no justification to sanction an additional expenditure of Rs. 5,000 for this department. A sum of Rs. 3,500 has been provided under this head of "Agriculture" for travelling allowance, against 2,500 provided for last year. That is an excess of Rs. 1,000. This must be cut off. For the work that is being done by the department, I do not see why there should be 8 Inspectors and staff, consuming nearly 1,000 rupees a month. As I remarked before, the agricultural condition of the State is none the better now than what it was before the advent of this department, which is long past the stage of experiment. I can understand that the dignity of the State administration must be preserved, and I have, therefore, agreed to expending the same amount that was spent in 1100.

A reference to the recent speech made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras at Madura will show that the Agricultural Department in British India is administered on more practical lines than it is done here. There they want to carry demonstrations to the very door of the agriculturist, whereas here you sit in a corner and spend huge sums of money, and find fault with the ryots for not coming to you and appreciating your wonderful work. Do not for a moment believe the Superintendent, when he says that our ryot is unintelligent and illiterate. (Vide his last *Administration Report.*) Believe me, he is very calculative and intelligent, and has fully realised the truth

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that a bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush. Convince him that there are more than two birds in the bush, and they can be caught without doubt by following your methods and leaving off his. He will surely do so the next morning. I cannot but quote Dr. Voelcker, a renowned agriculturist, who was, some years ago, engaged by the Government of India to report on the possible directions in which our agriculture might be improved. After carefully inspecting nearly every part of India, he says:—

"I unhesitatingly dispose of the ideas which have been erroneously entertained that the ryots' cultivation is primitive and backward, and say that nearly all the attempts made in the past to teach him have failed, because he understands far better than his would-be teachers, the particular circumstances under which he has to pursue his calling."

And Mr. Pramathnath Bose, B. Sc. (Lond) rightly says:—

"Peasants are as a rule quite ready to introduce improvements in their cultivation, if they are demonstrated to be to their advantage."

Again, Sir H. J. S. Cotton says:—"The ryots of India possess an amount of knowledge and practical skill within their own humble sphere which no expert scientist can ever hope to acquire."

All the above remarks are more true about the Cochin ryot who is on an average more intelligent than the ryots of other parts of India.

I, therefore, conclude by repeating that one more pie than what was being spent before this House came into existence should not be spent on this department, so long as the present methods are not changed handle and blade.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, I have also sent up a token motion with regard to the management of this department. This motion affords me an opportunity to say what I want to urge on the subject. I shall not move my token motion separately. During the discussion of the budget of last year very trenchant criticisms were offered on the working of this department, and I abstained from making any observations of my own, as I had not studied the subject well. Since then, I have taken considerable pains to learn the working of this Agricultural Department in various countries, and hence, I feel emboldened to stand before this House and say that the working of our Agricultural Department is very satisfactory.

I have compared the work of our Agricultural Department with that in the Presidency of Bengal, in the United Provinces, in the Presidency of Bombay, in the Presidency of Madras, in Mysore and Travancore.

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Now, conditions in Bengal and the United Provinces are nearly the same as those obtaining here. Regarding the object that the Agricultural Department is expected to serve, I would quote for the information of some of my non-official friends that the main aim of the department is "to enable the ryot to procure with moderate toil a decent competence,—what is necessary for living human lives of frugal and assured comfort." In the language of the Report of the United Provinces, the Agricultural Department should, in the first instance, strive to cultivate crops that supply the necessaries of life, and all attention should be devoted to this prime subject before anything else is attempted. They classify the work of the department under four heads:—(1) Investigation, (2) Experimentation, (3) Initiation and (4) Co-operation.

In regard to the first two items, Investigation and Experimentation, very large amounts have to be spent without any prospect of return. The department has to investigate the methods of profitable cultivation, investigate the nature of the soil, investigate the nature of the seed that is to be sown and investigate as to the methods of improving existing crops, bringing in new seeds, trying rotation of crops, trying improved methods of irrigation, trying improved methods of manure, trying improved methods of cultivation, tilling, etc., endeavouring to find out devices for the destruction of pests and so on. The experimentation is done principally in the Central Farm, and this, of course, entails very heavy expenditure. Initiation consists in enabling the ryot to understand what has been successfully achieved as a result of investigation and experimentation in the Central Farm. Co-operation is the most important function of all. For co-operation with the ryot, you should carry instruction to his home, help him, make him understand what is useful and beneficial, and render help to him not only to cultivate his land, but also, in some instances, to work with him. In regard to all these four heads, it has been found, on a comparative statement that I have prepared with regard to the working of the Agricultural Department for 12 years in various provinces, that the results we have achieved in the course of these years (but I believe Mr. Raman Menon is not responsible for all the 12 years' work) have been eminently satisfactory. The expenditure entailed for the last 12 years, when compared with the statistics in other Provinces, shows that we have worked this department at a decided profit of 22 to 33 %. Now, the time at my disposal is very limited, and I have to be brief. I would invite the attention of the Hon'ble Members of this House to the latest *Report of the Department of Agriculture* published by the Bengal Govern-

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ment for 1924-1925, which was published only a few weeks back. Comments upon that Report by the *Statesman* of Calcutta, in its issue of the 22nd July 1926, are very instructive. I will not waste time by reading the whole of them, but I wish to draw pointed attention to some observations made in this leading article on the " Progress of Agriculture in Bengal. "

" Of the investigations in which the department is engaged, there is no end. The work is continuous and cannot be measured by annual achievements. It is important to observe that the department has already considerable achievements to its credit. There are tracts where only certain varieties of crops could be grown, and where certain varieties could not be grown. Now, the cultivation of paddy is the most complex and the most important problem. The land is infinite in variety and of various levels. That in itself implies differences of moisture conditions. To get the best out of all distinct types of paddy are tried, and that is a most important experiment. To do this, they have got the botanical section of the department. The exchange of departmental seed for local seed in districts where there are farms run by local farmers is the best device for getting all varieties of suitable seed."

Then, take the question of cattle improvement. Another branch of the department attends to this work. Co-operation in regard to cultivation and agriculture, (by supplying departmental seed in exchange for local seed, by showing how to work the small farms) has produced appreciable results. There has been an increase in the income from paddy alone, in this particular Province of Bengal, in the year 1924-1925, by 5 crores of rupees. This has been achieved by the joint work of the ryot and departmental officer concerned.

Then, again, investigation and discovery form only part of the work. The other great part is getting the results, absorbed by the cultivator, and that requires the co-operation of the right kind of agent for demonstration and propaganda. As we have said before, he must be a man who knows the cultivator and sympathises with him and knows how to get under his skin."

The budgetted expenditure for "Agriculture" (I refer to items 1 to 4 under this head, there being hardly time to refer to the other items) is not at all excessive. The preliminary budget estimate is not sufficiently explanatory. It is fortunate that this department has published a printed report of its work during the last year.

President.—Is it not published year after year ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—We have received Reports from three departments. My friend, Dr. Govinda Meno

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pointed out the desirability of other departments also publishing such Reports. Now, these figures in the budget are a bit misleading.

President.—Figures relating to items 1 to 4 ?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I mean "Agriculture Proper." I have no time to deal with "Avenues," "Farm Operations," "Seed and manure" and Cattle-breeding".

Now, these figures are misleading. Page 22. "Supplies and services" are said to cost the sum of Rs. 22,100, and the income is shown as Rs. 13,500. That is not accurate. More information should be given, if this report should be properly understood. I took considerable pains to learn them from the Superintendent. The figures require explanation. The proposed items of expenditure relate not only to new undertakings and ventures, but for the maintenance of existing stock too. The orchards, the pine apple gardens, and the graft trees have to be manured and nurtured. There is some expenditure in connection with the cocoanut plantation.

President.—And for sugar-cane as well.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Yes, Sir. Rs. 7,000, for casual labour, and Rs. 2,000 for purchase of manure relate to the cultivation of existing plants and the proposed operations for the year. This expenditure is partially in the nature of investments. The existing plants have not been valued. Their value would naturally increase by the end of the year. No amount is proposed to be spent during the year for the purchase of cattle, so that the Rs. 7,500 budgetted for the purchase of cattle food, is meant mostly for the cattle already in the Farm, consisting of grown up cattle and young ones too. Page 3, of *the Budget* (Receipts) shows that Rs. 2,000 is expected to be realised by the sale of cattle. Properly nourished cattle, of course, increase in value till they grow old.

Experts consider that, by the end of a dozen years, receipts should balance the expenditure on supplies and services, establishment charges excepted. I have carefully examined the figures for the previous years also, and I feel emboldened to submit to the House that the expenditure of this department is not at all abnormal.

I have to emphasise that the beneficial results obtained by investigation and experimentation have to be more broadly diffused. Instruction and advice have to be carried to the very door of the ryot. A recent circular of the Madras Government directs the subordinates of the Agricultural Department to take manure to the fields and sell them at a discount. A demand has to be created, and for this purpose various concessions may have to be made at the start.

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The improvement of cattle has to be more vigorously attended to. Six hundred rupees for cattle-breeding is a very low figure indeed. I have, in this connection, to condemn the practice of levying 'covering fees', obtaining in the Central Farm.

President.—Covering charges?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Yes, Sir. A fee of twelve annas is levied for each cow. This should be put a stop to at once. This is an impediment to cows being taken to the Farm.

President.—Is this so, Mr. Raman Menon?

Mr. I Raman Menon.—Yes, Sir. Similar fees are levied in other farms.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I have referred to the necessity of clubbing the Co-operative Department with the Agricultural Department in my speech on the budget; the Imperial Government, and the Government of India think that governmental help in Agriculture can best be given through Agricultural Co-operative Societies. If the Co-operative Department could not, for any reason, be brought under the Agricultural Department, arrangements should be made whereby the two departments might work in unison.

My time is up. Let me repeat that the department does not deserve the censure freely made here. It deserves all encouragement, as the salvation of 75 per cent of the people, depends upon its proper administration.

President.—With regard to covering fee, Mr. Raman Menon, is that levied elsewhere?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They are levied in other places.

President.—But then, you see, what would be the inducement to the people? You better not take that fee. It would be an inducement for the ryots to bring their cattle.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They have not grudged to pay, because they find that by service with one of these stud bulls they get at least 150 per cent of the value. Ordinarily, a bull-calf of one year old does not fetch more than six or seven rupees. But a bull-calf from one of these stud bulls would invariably fetch Rs. 27 or Rs. 28. So far, they have not grudged to pay it. There is no harm. The Devaswam Department does not now charge anything.

President.—But, in the light of what Mr. Puduval has been telling me, is it not fair to give this a trial?

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, there are not any supporting your opposition. Do you not think that, under the circumstances, we should give a fair trial to the working of the department?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I am also for investing more money in the Agricultural Department. What I

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want is that it should be done in an efficient manner practically. That is all what I want.

President.—Mr. Raman Menon had his training in England. In course of time, the work will be improved as far as possible. And you say that his methods are not convincing, are not found appropriate, best and all that. Internal workings are well-known to him. Under the circumstances, should he not be given a free hand in the matter?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There are no paddy fields cultivated at all.

President.—I do not know whether, under the circumstances, you would press the cut motion to a division.

Mr. T.A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want to know the sense of the Council.

President.—The only Member that spoke spoke against you. Nobody else comes forward to support you.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want the leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

President.—Inasmuch as there is no opposition, no leave is necessary. Wherever there is no opposition, all that you have to do is to rise and tell me you withdraw.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Motions Nos. 18—21.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,362 for Farm Operations by Rs. 10,000.*

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,362 for Farm Operations by Rs. 7,500.*

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,362 for Farm Operations by Rs. 3,000.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 34,362 for Farm Operations.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—My idea, Sir, when I gave notice of this motion was to see if we could not reduce the expenditure on the Farm and transfer the activities of this department to different localities by way of starting demonstration farms. Now, in the light of the assurance given by the Government that, soon after the experts return from Poona, the programme of the department will be to work in this direction; I do not think it necessary to press this motion, and with your leave I withdraw.

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The motion was withdrawn with leave. The next motion, in Mr. Nunez's absence, was considered withdrawn.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I have nothing to say.

Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar was permitted to withdraw his cut.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I rise to move to omit the allotment. I would like to have one piece of information. What is the amount spent per head of cattle per month for cattle food?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I cannot supply the information off-hand.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You do not know the number of cattle in your Farm?

President.—You want the expenditure on cattle food. Rs. 7,500 is the expenditure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That must be based upon certain calculations.

President.—We will work out the figure now. How many cattle are now in existence?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I cannot give the correct number now. We sold some animals and some were newly born.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Can you not give an approximate number? Say 200 or 400.

President.—I have been there. The number was nearly 240. Some 50 were sold. So the number must be between 190 and 200.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—This year also we sold certain animals.

President.—Can you say how many there are now?

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—From the last *Administration Report* we see that it is 177.

President.—Can we take it as below 200?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I think the number is below 200.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Rs. 7,000 is budgetted for this year.

President.—Let us work it out and find out what it would amount to. When it is worked out, it comes to Rs. 37-8-0 per head of cattle for a year. Then it must be Rs. 3 and odd per month. You may go on that basis. You must have all this information ready, Mr. Raman Menon. Mr. Salem, you may take it to be the expenditure per head.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—It is really much more than Rs. 3, because Farm straw is used. In this case the cost of the straw has not been calculated. We are charged 2 as. 9 ps. per day for a cow that has to be sent there for crossing. That is probably more than what is expended in the Farm.

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President.—Excluding what we have from the Farm Operations, the department is spending Rs. 3 per head of cattle. I do not know whether your argument will hold good.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Straw will have to be taken into the receipt side.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—All that we get as income must be taken on the receipt side, but not grass.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Guinea grass must be taken into consideration. For we spend for the grass.

President.—We spend money for grass. It does not grow of itself.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Guinea grass is valued.

President.—Of course, that should be done; but not pasture grass.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Even cow dung should be valued, for it is a valuable manure.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is manure actually purchased for Rs. 2,000 a year?

President.—We purchase manure excluding cow dung for Rs. 2,000 a year. Some we spend in the Cocoanut Station. But this is for Farm Operations only.

Mr. A. B Salem.—I take that the object for which we are spending upon these operations is to bring home to the cultivators fully improved results. I fail to see in *the Administration Report* of this department the items of fully proved results. Last year we brought home to the department the necessity of having demonstrations everywhere, and this year the reply is, "wait till the Poona students return. We have no hands at present. We have three hands under training. As soon as the three hands come, we will make a beginning towards the demonstration, at different parts, to bring home to the ryots the results of experiments, etc."

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—On a point of order, Sir. I said only demonstration on a larger scale.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It was said that it was not carried on by the department.

President.—Demonstration is carried on in some jenmies' lands. These people go and give advice.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is just what I am saying. Sir, let us see what the cost is. We spend Rs. 22,100 on farms, casual labour, supply of seeds, manure, implements, rent on farm lands, other charges, miscellaneous, travelling expenses, etc. Taking all the heads together, we spend Rs. 22,100. The whole income by the sale of the results of intensive cultivation and ordinary cultivation will be seen on page 3 of *the Budget*

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to be Rs. 15,580. That is the reason why I ask the question, "What is the actual yield of the paddy cultivation so as to find out what it costs?" Remember, Sir that we do not include in this the cost of the Agricultural Department, the pay given to the men who are looking after the Farm. This is mere money actually spent upon the soil. And after spending Rs. 22,100 on the soil in the Farm, you are only able to realise Rs. 15,580. Then, your experiments, whatever their nature be, can never be followed in this country.

President.—These things are not to be carried on on a commercial scale. Other Presidencies are spending considerably on the Agricultural Department.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Travancore is spending a very great amount, though we are not spending beyond the actual necessities.

President.—Mr. Raman Menon, I think you have the statistics of the Agricultural Department of the Central Provinces, Madras Presidency, Bengal, Bombay, etc.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Receipts and Expenditure on the Agricultural Farm.

	Year.	*Receipts.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
Madras Presidency.	1914—5	98,540	4,95,980
	1916—7	1,38,903	7,15,518
	1917—8	1,66,300	7,76,336
	1918—9	2,22,400	10,11,494
Travancore.	1089	4,344	58,695
	1090	5,058	62,969
	1091	5,052	54,845
	1092	7,929	57,489
	1093	8,289	60,898
	1097	14,226	1,52,982

President.—Those are the Travancore figures.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—On going through the Reports of the Central Provinces, Bombay, Bengal, they spend four times and five times the income and sometimes ten times. We have not been carrying on our department on a commercial basis. That is all what I wish to point out.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I was not comparing our State with other States. My point is only that this is not carried on, on a commercial scale.

President.—If you are against it, I have nothing to say.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I visited the Farm personally in May to see what all things were carried on there. All sorts of things

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were there, and a very large extent of ordinary things are also being cultivated. Plantain trees were extensively cultivated there. Surely plantains are cultivated all over the State. And I do not know whether any experiments now conducted are going to result in any further development in that branch of cultivation of plantains. We find any number of jack trees being planted. Now, what is the necessity of spending money upon jack trees, and that on such a large scale? If you want to do an experiment upon jack tree, half a dozen would suffice. A large number of jack trees serves no useful purpose at all. You are spending money unnecessarily upon those things. Similarly, there was a number of mango trees also. A number of varieties of mango trees were found. If we are not doing it on a commercial scale, a small number of trees would suffice for experimental purposes. But I find there, the object of commerce and experiment being clubbed together. That costs us a large amount of money. Set apart a portion of it for commercial purposes. In that line we have no complaint at all. Our complaint is that money is being wasted on commercial purposes. Let them waste it the other way for experimental purposes. You do not separate the commercial aspect from the experimental aspect. You carry on your experiments. That is only a scientific work, and that is to be paid for by the country. Ordinary commercial transactions also must be carried out, side by side, so that the knowledge we get may be applied to the country also. If we spend 25 rupees to get an income of Rs. 5, it will be only a short-sighted policy of the Government. Therefore, for demonstration purposes a smaller scale of things would do.

Again, Sir, one other point that I wish to emphasise is that ours is a small State. We have got these experiments going on in Travancore, British Malabar and in the Agricultural Colleges of Madras, Bengal and elsewhere. There the revenue is very large. Here they say we have not a laboratory to do any experiments. We have got experts in advance of the laboratory. What are they to do?

President.—It is not his fault.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have no complaint against the Agricultural Member at all. My complaint is against the Government. I have got no complaint for maintaining the department at all. My complaint is why do you maintain such a department which serves no useful purpose. Supposing scientifically they found out something, that information is broad-casted, and we get that information without spending any money, and can put it to practice. Why maintain this small show on which we are not able to spend as much money as it needs?

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President.—Many persons who have visited our Farm at Ollukkara have given excellent certificates for the efficient way in which it is managed, and they say it is a model Farm. It is a thing worth maintaining.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, what I say is, spend more money for the laboratory.

Then, I come to the other aspect. Now, supposing we lease 5 acres of land from a jenmi for a demonstration farm, you may pay him only that lease amount that he has been getting. You carry on your demonstrations there. It would mean that you are disseminating knowledge to the neighbour. Maintain separate accounts for that, and exhibit your accounts to the public so that they may understand how much you spend, and what is the result that you get. If you carry out this suggestion, we can get better results for the country. It is not to cut down the expenditure or to close the farm that we speak now. Rambootans, Mangostans and other things are cultivated, which will not grow here in abundance and which are of no use to the ordinary public. There are many people in this House who do not know what rambootan is, in spite of the Farm Operations. These are all absolute luxuries. I strongly protest against any money being spent upon luxuries.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I wish to say a few words on this subject, because it seems to me that there is a misconception of the uses of experimental farms. The criticism is concentrated upon one point, that the expenditure is very high compared with the return from the Farm. In other words, the expenditure is much higher than the receipts. But I submit that the object of all experimental farms is not to make a good return but to spend money in the proper way in experimental demonstrations. If the Hon'ble Member here shows me a high profit from his department, I would certainly cut short the expenditure, because he has shown a very high revenue. His business is not to show a revenue but to spend money entrusted to the department, for the development of agriculture, in various ways such as scientific demonstration, improved methods of agriculture, and also in undertaking to produce various kinds of new products where the soil is suitable for their production. This I conceive to be the fundamental function of the department. Following this principle, you will notice, by taking the figures for a number of years for Travancore, that, for every Rs. 5 spent, the State gets only one rupee; in British Malabar, for every Rs. 7 spent, it gets only one rupee, while in Cochin for every Rs. 3 we get one rupee. My contention is that the money spent is not enough. I think the department is not spending enough money for experimental purposes.

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There is another point raised. My friend said that there must be separation between the commercial side and the demonstration side. Certainly. The Farm's main function is demonstration. It is not to look to the commercial side at all. Whatever you derive, you derive as an incidental process as a result of the demonstration activity. For example, when he plants a series of mango trees, and he experiments with all kinds of manure, some of this manure will give him a higher production, some will give a lower production. But if he is doing it on a commercial scale on the whole, he will be able to foretell roughly what the production and expenditure will be. But if he follows that principle, then he is not doing the duty for which he is appointed. Therefore, it is not fair to discuss a question of revenue and expenditure in this department.

What are the functions of this department, Sir? The functions of this department are five in number:—

(1) *Experiments connected with the staple produce.*

(2) The second is *horticulture.* Under this comes all those trees deemed as luxuries. The object of this attempt is to see whether costly trees could be planted here on a commercial basis.

(3) *Dairy.* I do not know whether the department has done much in that direction. What kind of food to the cows will yield an increased quantity and a higher quality of milk it is the duty of the department to find out, and give that information to the people at large. It is only by experimenting these things that our farmers and our people can be given a clear knowledge as to what is the best food for their animals.

In all these experiments the State must suffer, if anybody must suffer. People will not undertake these experiments. It is the duty of the State to do so. In all these cases the department must incur enormous expenditure, and I think it is justifiable expenditure.

Then, with regard to stock-breeding, my friends here have already dealt with it. I think it would be a good thing, if the 12 annas fee now charged for crossing animals is done away with. This would encourage people to go to the Farm and get their cows crossed by the splendid animals kept in the Farm. The most important thing is Agricultural Education. This is not the kind of education that is now imparted in schools, but an education which depends on practical demonstration. If the people do not go to the Farm for education, the Farm must go to the people. Following this principle, in the Madras Presidency, lately, they have introduced a system by which they will take on lease a portion of land, say, 3 or 4 acres, from the owner

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of the land, and pay the necessary rent, and cultivate half of it in the old method and the other half in the new method. That is a demonstration worth trying. Now, they calculate the expenditure incurred, and the net revenue produced on each block and try to convince the people that scientific cultivation is an advantage. That is a demonstration which will appeal to the farmer and the poor labourer alike, more than all the scientific treatises on the subject. I would suggest earnestly that the object of the Government must be to encourage such demonstration farms in different parts of the State.

I would also suggest to the House that the Government should, by legislation, or by other means, put an end to the export of our manure. It is a very important matter, and unless you do take some measures to keep this manure here, our land will diminish in value. Our land is diminishing, in value, or if there is no diminution in value at present, in course of time it cannot but diminish in value. That is the general impression. The land is losing its value, and the return is getting smaller and smaller. Of course, I am not competent to deal with this subject. Those who are in a position to say something on this subject are of this opinion. The department should, therefore, collect the whole manure and distribute it to the people.

These, then, are the proper lines on which this department should work. If these views are kept in view, I do not think this House would in any way reduce the expenditure to be sanctioned for the department. I honestly believe that the State would do well to pay more attention to this department and to give a generous grant so that they may equip themselves with a laboratory for the purpose of carrying on these experiments. There are able men in the department, but unfortunately, there are no laboratories. We could not grudge the expenditure for these purposes. With these few remarks, I wish to impress upon the House and the Government the necessity for sanctioning expenditure in this department on the most generous scale.

Sreemati T. Madhavi Amma.—I wish to make a few remarks on this particular point for your consideration. For, in spite of the detailed accounts and explanations given by the Hon'ble Member in charge, I find that it is not desirable to invest so much money in a Farm of this kind, unless some more substantial improvements are made there. Investigations and Experimentations, in my humble opinion, are for those who have no experience in the matter, not to a trained expert.

The cattle and dairy farm attached to this fails to supply all the produce generally supplied by similar farms elsewhere. Milk in limited quantities is all the dairy produce available now. Not.

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even butter can be had from there. To maintain a dairy at the expense of the public money, which does not demonstrate the working of a model dairy farm, but merely supplies milk, and that to such a small quantity, sounds to the ordinary ears as waste of time and money. For, no milch cow has so far failed to supply milk, and I don't think it is desirable to use public funds merely to demonstrate that milch cows yield cows, curds, butter, butter-milk and ghee ; all these can be made there, and sold for a minimum rate for the advantage of the people, which would help the Government in return to fetch a reasonable sum for the upkeep of at least that part of the department, and give new demonstrative lessons to the public that such a farm is not purely an expensive concern but a source of income also. And I suggest 3 or 4 women assistants may be employed to look after this side of business in the Farm. Calves of higher breed and first class seeds may also be added to the list of sales.

And a poultry farm to be attached to this is not unwholesome either.

In the same way, the Agricultural Farm cultivates on a comparatively modest scale fruits and vegetables, which, if the budget estimates are not incorrect, are sold at about a quarter of the cost of production. So far for the visible and tangible results. If a little milk and a few vegetables and fruits are all that we could expect for our Rs. 1,10,000 for a long time to come, then I am sorry to observe that the game seems hardly worth the candle. The only thing that seems to be done in the Agricultural Farm that may be taken notice of is the instruction occasionally given to pupil teachers under training.

If, therefore, the object of keeping such a farm is only to give demonstrative lessons to the people, then, I think it would be better in all cases to close this big establishment as soon as possible, and that a small Agricultural School of one-fourth the size of the existing one, may be substituted for this department of public waste now maintained at such enormous cost, which would save at least three-fourths of the expense incurred therein.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I rise to oppose the motion of the Member for Jews. His motion goes to the very root of the Farm, almost uprooting it. The suggestion to close the Farm does not seem reasonable. Therefore it is, Sir, that I oppose the motion, and not because I am satisfied with the way in which the affairs of the Farm are now managed. In answer to question No. 454 of the Kumbham session, we have obtained some details regarding the working of that institution (Appendix V). The total amount spent to the exclusive account of the Farm till the end of Karkadagam 1100 was Rs. 3,36,218—14—7. I believe this is a pretty large amount for a single Farm. We have

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spent a big amount in 1101 also. And what is the result? I wish to know whether any improvements have been effected in the agriculture of the State through the activity of the Agricultural Department. If the answer is in the affirmative, where has improvements been effected? This department is intended for the propagation of knowledge on up-to-date methods of profitable cultivation. By placing on the Secretary's table the *Reports on the Administration of the Agricultural Department* for the last several years no useful purpose will be served. The department must show by the experiments conducted and by the results of its agricultural operations that its Farm is a model farm, if it is intended to induce the ryots to adopt its methods. The answers already given will never induce the ryots to follow the methods advocated or adopted in the Farm. It is for the department to show that the methods it has adopted are profitable, and that by following them the ryots will be benefited. If it is not established, we cannot but think that the Agricultural Department is an unnecessary drain on the Exchequer of the State. Now, Sir, in regard to cattle-breeding, I may call your attention to the figures given in Appendix V. While, of the budgetted amount of 1100, Rs. 9,447 has been appropriated for 'purchase of cattle food', the income from milk during the same year is only Rs. 2,510. Many of us own cows. If we have to spend Rs. 100 on a cow and can get only Rs. 20 in return, I am sure none will care to keep them.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We have working animals also.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—How many bulls are there in the Farm? I am sure, not many.

President.—Have we not buffaloes also?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Provision is seen made for stock-breeding. That is for purchase of food for cattle and for improvement of stock. I admit that the quality of cattle in the land should be kept as high as possible. But we do not know how much is really spent for maintaining the cattle. No doubt we get milk in return. But what do we spend on them? I hope that the expenditure for cattle fodder, i. e., straw and other things, is included in the provision of Rs. 7,500. The Farm has its own straw. It would have been better, if all the items under the provision made had been shown separately. How are we to know whether this department is working on a commercial basis or on an experimental basis?

President.—If separate details are shown, as you say, it will multiply the items in the budget.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't think there is any harm in doing so, as it will give us more detailed information. People

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now think that the experiments made at the Farm are all unsuccessful. Let us take the case of sugar-cane, for example. How much have been spent on that item alone? How much are we going to spend again? How much have we got? Information on these points is not forthcoming. Experiments have been carried on during the last several years. From experiments we cannot get any profit. I do admit experiments are necessary, but how long are we to remain in the experimental stage? Is it for centuries?

President.—Is not the sugar-cane industry a success?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Let us be told that. What is the income from it? What is the expenditure? Without that data how can we form an opinion? I believe that some such data will be required by the Finance Committee also.

President.—Do you want details to be furnished?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—During the discussion of the last budget, the same question was raised.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—A bulletin should have been issued announcing the success of the experiments.

President.—In the Village Sheet of the Gazette it has been published.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We have published important results achieved in the Farm in the Government Gazette and have distributed copies of the same to the Panchayats and to the Co-operative Department.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have been reading the Village Sheet very minutely, and only the cost incurred is given and no result. Experiment is no cultivation. A lot of money is being spent in experiments with no result.

Mr. C. Matthai.—Cotton seeds were supplied by the Agricultural Department for distribution among the various schools. The result has been found to be very satisfactory.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—What we want to know is whether by adopting these methods the ryots will in any way be benefited. This the Agricultural Department has not made out, and no ryot will adopt its methods till it is made out. This was the trend of the discussion during the last budget session. The Hon'ble Member should be able to satisfy us by facts and figures what produce has been obtained in a particular year, what were the expenses incurred therefor, and whether the result was gain or loss. How long, Sir, are we to go on experimenting? From 1090 to 1100, say for the last 11 years, we have been repeating the experiments. I have gone to the Farm several times. I have visited every nook and corner of it. It is not experiments that are carried on there but commercial culti-

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vation. For experiments we need not have so many acres of land planted with banana or other plantains and mango and other trees. There is no necessity for utilizing several hundreds of paras of land for paddy cultivation. Several other experiments are seen made there, but I do not think that, if they are really experiments, they should be carried on in so extensive an area as at present. The Farm has not been equipped with a laboratory till now. Keeping the specialists there without giving them the materials with which they are to work is not at all justifiable. I hope the Government will take the earliest opportunity to provide work for these specialists.

President.—Of course, Mr. Raman Menonre presented the matter to me. I am sorry the Government was not able to find funds to meet the requirements. What will be the expenditure for the equipment of a laboratory on a decent scale?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We may require about Rs. 5,000 for equipment, and we want a building also for the laboratory.

President.—You must try your best to give every facility.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—An estimate for Rs. 5,000 has been already submitted.

President.—Another thing which I wish to enjoin is that you should take small pieces of lands in the various taluks, cultivate them at the expense of the Government, so that the people there may know the method and result of the cultivation conducted by the department. Have you found the existing rules regarding demonstration on lands to be unworkable?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I have submitted certain revised proposals for the consideration of the Government.

President.—Take 5 acres of land in each taluk, cultivate them at Government expense as an experiment, and this will persuade the ryots to adopt this method.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—In Travancore that was being done by Dr. Kunjan Pillai.

Mr. A. B. Salem —That is what ought to be done.

President.—If possible, you may take up that question.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That was before the new scheme was devised. We have to reconsider that.

President.—I wish to know whether there is any objection in the way of cultivating the lands at Government expense.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We can start such works, Sir.

President.—There is considerable force in the arguments raised that experiments should be made to enable the ryots to adopt this method. You will get better results. The landlords may not refuse to give us their help in the matter. Is there any workable difficulty in this?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are no difficulties, Sir.

President.—Prehaps, you may have to take your staff there and cattle which are to be stationed. Can we get cattle locally ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—All that can be arranged, Sir.

President.—It appears to me that this is an experiment worth trying.

Mr. C. Matthai.—We are doing such experiments in small plots of land in our schools but not on a large scale.

President.—In rural parts people are not expected to go to the schools and see how things are being done. By following this method, we may get a larger out-turn, and this will be far more useful that any amount of propaganda work.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The experiment is likely to take at least 5 years. More over, 5 acres will not suffice. About 10 to 15 acres will be necessary. After five years, the amounts spent for the experiments, i. e., the receipt and expenditure side may be published.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—After hearing all this discussion, I want to bring to the notice of the Government a fact to remove all the misapprehensions here. The chief difficulty is that the public are not given information as to what is going on in the Farm or what is done there. What I beg to suggest is to pulbish a monthly Agricultural Magazine so that, whatever is done by the department or under the department may be given wide publicity. We have got several men in the department, for example, the Mycologist, Chemist, and all these persons can write something that is useful to the public in the Magazine, which may be distributed free of cost to the public.

President.—I think we had Magazines before. Have they ceased to exist ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Now, there is no such Magazine. There was a Journal dealing with Agriculture, Co-operation and industry.

President.—What is the reason of its being stopped ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Because it was managed by three editors. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Since we have got a number of persons in the department, it is very easy to take it up. We have got a Government Press where it may be published.

President.—I do not know whether there are any practical difficulties in the publication of the Journal.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—This alternative which I propose will give a full knowledge of the department and its workings, and will remove much of the misapprehension.

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President.—Have you anything to say about the working of the Farm?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—As to the working, I have nothing adverse to say. I have gone to the Farm several times. I am myself an agriculturist. I think it is working on a satisfactory basis. I had occasion to learn many new things from the Farm itself. I do not think that the statement by several of the Members here that it is of no use is right. I have found it satisfactory. The only thing required is to bring the information to the notice of the ryots. It is for that I suggest a Magazine.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Let us discuss the Panchayat budget also with this and pass on.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have no information whether the stud bulls kept in the Central Farm are sent out to the different villages.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We have breeding bulls in the Trichur Town, Palayannur, Vyttila, Cranganur, etc.

President.—There is Mr. Mathew's motion. We can pass on, as there are other motions.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Another thing is the cocoanut tree cultivation in Trichur. How do those experiments stand?

President.—Do you mean that there is no vacant space available for the purpose?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I only want to bring this to the notice of the Government. I am not going to press it. Let the department devote its attention to one or two things at a time, and let the results be published in the course of the year. We shall take sugar-cane, for instance, or anything with which they are ready. The results of that may be widely published, so that in the next year we may be in a position to know definitely the result of concentrated attention on one particular thing in a particular year. This will also show the financial aspect of the things that are cultivated.

President.—On what should we concentrate our attention?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I mean that the department should concentrate its attention on an experiment by which the cultivation can be intensified, and the people will be able to know exactly the expenditure on the method adopted and its result.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—It is done even now.

President.—Will it be possible, Mr. Raman Menon, to give the result in a concrete form? Can we hold out an assurance?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The financial aspect of the sugar-cane industry was published long, long ago.

President.—What is the result?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It was found to be profitable, and there is a profit ranging from 150 to 200 rupees an acre.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The financial aspect is not of academic interest. We want to know the cost, the result of incurring that cost, and the financial effect of it on the department.

President.—Do you want to press the motion further?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, Sir.

The motion was withdrawn with leave.

Motions Nos. 22 — 25.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,729 for the Cocoanut Station by Rs. 729.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,729 for the Cocoanut Station.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 83,844 for "Agriculture" by Rs. 6,469.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 83,844 for "Agriculture" by Rs. 12,500.*

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—ഫാറന്തിംസിന്റെ കാര്യം ഇരിക്കട്ടെ. തെങ്ങിൻ തോപ്പിനെ എടുത്താൽ അതും 2,729 രൂപ ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ട് 2,000 രൂപ മാത്രം കിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമായിട്ടാണ് തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ചിലവിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ആദായം ലഭിക്കുന്ന ഈ തെങ്ങിൻ തോപ്പിനെ കാണാൻ ആരെങ്കിലും ചെല്ലുമെന്ന് എനിക്ക് ബോദ്ധ്യമില്ല. 600 തെങ്ങ് കായ്ക്കുന്നതായുണ്ടെന്ന് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടുതന്നെ സമ്മതിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും ചിലവിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ വരവാണ് ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—നിങ്ങളും വൈറില തെങ്ങിൻ തോപ്പ് ചെന്നു നോക്കീട്ടുണ്ടോ? അതു കണ്ടിട്ട് തന്നേയാണോ ഇതൊക്കെ പറയുന്നത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—തെങ്ങിൻതോപ്പുകളെപ്പറ്റി അറിവില്ലാത്തവർ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നകാര്യം സംശയമാണ്. കൂടുതൽ ചിലവിട്ട് കുറഞ്ഞ ആദായം എടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു തോപ്പ് ആയതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നേയാണ് ഞാൻ പോയി നോക്കാത്തത് (*Laughter*). അതിൽനിന്ന് എടുക്കുന്ന ആദായം മാത്രം അതിൽ ചിലവാക്കിയാൽ മതിയെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിലധികം അവിടെ ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ല.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—അവിടെ കായ്ക്കാത്ത ചിലഭാഗം മുറിച്ചു കളയാനുണ്ട്. തെകുറെ വളന്നും വരുന്നുണ്ട്. തെകുറെ വയ്ക്കാൻ ഇനിയും സ്ഥലം ഉണ്ട്. അതു വളരെ പ്രയത്നംചെയ്താണ് നന്നാക്കിവരുന്നതും. മുന്നൂറുകൊല്ലംകൂടി ക്ഷമിച്ചാൽ അവിടത്തെ വരവുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ചിലവുനടത്തി ആദായം എടുക്കാറാകും.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ബി. സേലം.—ഇപ്രകാരം ധാരാളം പണം ചിലവാക്കിയാൽ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള എല്ലാതെങ്ങുകളും നന്നാക്കാം.

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പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—എനിക്ക് ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒന്നേ പറയാനുള്ളൂ. രണ്ടു മൂന്നു കൊല്ലംകൂടി നിങ്ങളം ക്ഷമിക്കണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ, നിങ്ങളം പോയി നോക്കിയിട്ട് എന്താണ് വേണ്ടതെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി.

Motions 22 to 25 were not pressed.

Motions Nos. 26 — 30.

Mr A. B. Salem.—*To omit the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for "other charges" "under Avenues".*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,200 for Village Panchayat establishment by Rs. 100.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 14,618 for "Pay of Sweepers and Lighting Charges" by Rs 4,000.*

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,42,940 for "contribution to Village Panchayats" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,42,940 for "contribution to Village Panchayats" by Rs. 100.*

President.— "Avenues," I don't think, require special treatment.

Mr. A. B. Salem. – Only a few minutes, Sir. I find every year that thiseight thousand rupees is being spent. Is there not a limit for planting these avenue trees ?

President.—There are still many places where you have to plant. Of course, you have planted in many places. Wherever we go, this is the only one thing that offers some attraction. There are still places in which you have to carry on this plantation. It is for such places that we have provided. I will now pass over to Mr. K. T. Mathew's motion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,200 "for Village Panchayat establishment" by Rs. 100. My object in moving this motion is to draw the attention of the Government and especially of the Head of the Department to the fact that sufficient representation is not given to the so-called depressed classes on the Village Panchayats. In the answer to question No. 181, it is stated that there are 84 Village Panchayats in the State. But out of these 84 Village Panchayats, we find representatives of the so-called depressed classes only on 24.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Members of the Village Panchayats cannot be considered under "Establishment".

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The Superintendent is to nominate members. His pay is non-votable, and so we cannot reduce by a motion his salary. I think I am, therefore, right in raising this question now.

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Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Members cannot be taken under the category of the "Establishment."

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—But the establishment is for them.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The so-called depressed classes of the State form about one-fourth of the population. I do not find any reason for not giving adequate representation on the Village Panchayats to the so-called depressed classes. It is a very small thing which the Government can do, if the Government is really earnest. To safeguard their interests, in this Council, we find there are only a very few. And it is absolutely necessary that their interests should be well protected at least in the Village Panchayats. There is a movement in British India to give more representation to the so-called depressed classes in all the Legislative Councils. Here, if this is not possible to do, it should be borne in mind that they must at least be represented in all the Village Panchayats. When I put some questions regarding this matter, it was pointed out that the rules do not permit to give them representation. If the rules do not permit, such rules, I submit, must be modified in such a way that it should be possible for the Head of the Department to give them adequate representation in all the Village Panchayats. I raise this point to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that immediate action should soon be taken.

President.—What is the particular difficulty in giving representation?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are not people among the depressed classes who have proper qualification, under the rules.

President.—The point is whether the rules cannot be modified in such a way.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is rather difficult for the time being. There are not even men among these depressed classes who are able to read and write.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—From *the Report of the Educational Department* we find that so many from the so-called depressed classes are educated. We take pride in saying that our State is one of the foremost in point of education; and yet to say that there are not many people among the non-caste Hindus who can read and write is indeed pitiful. When the so-called depressed classes are given adequate representation in the Legislative Councils of British India, I think it is the duty of our State to give representation to them on all Village Panchayats at least.

President.—Mr. Raman Menon, do you mean to say that it is very difficult to get people who can read and write?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Sir, we can have any number of people of the depressed classes who can read and write. Probably, I suppose the Agricultural Superintendent is giving information upon data which he got years ago. The thing is it may be difficult to get people who know English. There are many who can read and write Malayalam well.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The matter will be considered.

President.—Is it necessary that our rule should be modified so as to give encouragement to these people. The Panchayats are supposed to be the units of administration. Let these people begin their training and let them get education. Then alone they can go in for higher spheres.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it possible that they are not fit? There are men who will be able to discharge their duty satisfactorily. It will be our endeavour to bring them up to such a level of efficiency, and get them trained for this work.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In the meanwhile, I may be allowed to bring to the notice of this House that these people should be exempted from the tax qualification which is Rs. 25. Then it will not be impossible to get persons. That is what I have to submit.

President.—So we are to change our rules. To satisfy the desire of the people, we have to modify these rules.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No tax qualification is necessary for nominating Members for the Legislative Council, and why it is quite the reverse in the case of nominating a member for the Village Panchayat It seems quite out of place.

President.—It may be borne in mind that a change of the rules is necessary.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Regarding illiteracy, I may submit that it is always the rich who are illiterate and not the poor people. It is the latter who will always have at least some education.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—It is high time that these rules are revised.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I don't want to press the motion. It is enough, if I get an assurance that the Government will consider the matter.

President.—Mr. Raman Menon, please take a note of this and submit proposals. It is very difficult now to get proper members to the Village Panchayats from these depressed classes on account of this tax qualification. As Rs. 25 is the tax, and as it is, no doubt, a very big amount, you have to shut out many useful persons from membership. Have you met with

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any difficulty, Mr. Raman Menon ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In som places there is difficulty.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In the place of this tax qualification of Rs. 25, can we not put Rs. 5 or a still lower amount ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—For nomination, no tax qualification at all is necessary.

President.—I have now heard complaints about our rules regarding tax qualification being insisted on.

Mr. Mathew was allowed to withdraw the motion.

President.—Now; Motion No. 28.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—We find there is considerable difference with regard to the lighting charges in Panchayats. This matter was taken up by the Finance Committee, and the Government was not then able to give a satisfactory answer.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In places where there are more lights, it is possible to carry on lighting at a less cost, and the conditions as to the value of the oil have to be taken into account. These are the two differences I have noted.

President.—Nothing else ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Nothing, Sir.

President.—Mr. Raja, wherever you have got a large number of lights, the cost of lighting them is lower.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.— On a close scrutiny, this disparity can be seen, and it must be remedied. We find a rise from Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 in item No. 219, page 7, Appendix A. The next item is 220; there it is Rs. 20. When we come to Vadakkancheri, the amount is only Rs. 7. I object to the average cost. It is only to draw the attention of the Government to that that I moved this motion.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In places where there are a number of lights, the cost is less. Further, in some places we do not pay for the work of lighting. The sanitary coolies attached to the Panchayats carry on this item of work. The oil is kept in store, and will be issued daily to these coolies.

President.—What is the method of scrutinising the expenditure or is there any possibility of remedying this disparity ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In places where we have only one light to be lighted, we cannot do this for less than Rs. 1—6—0 per mensem. In other places the price of oil goes up, especially in rural areas, and there will be only one light.

President.—What I want to know is whether this matter has engaged your attention,

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It came up to my notice before the preparation of the budget for 1101, and I found a lot of disparity in rates prevailing in the Panchayats. Then, I cut down the rates in a few of the Panchayats. It was found possible to get lighting done at a cost of Rs. 8—4—0 per year.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In Irinjalakkuda it is only Rs. 7 and odd.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We have got a number of lights in Irinjalakkuda. It is only in these rural areas that we have got a few stray lights. So the cost must necessarily increase. Say, for instance, in Nalleppalli, Pattancheri and Ayilur, we pay at the rate of Rs. 15 for lighting. They got Rs. 15 till last year. We have now reduced the rates, and from Nalleppalli there is just now a complaint that the rates are not adequate so that we have to look into the matter to see whether the rates are capable of any further reduction.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There is one more point regarding the sweepers. I do not want to mention the names. I think some of these are not utilised for the purpose for which they are intended. A reduction can be made, and it can be seen by a close scrutiny. There are some Panchayats which do not require sweepers. We have got a number of them to sweep the roads.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—If people live in rows of houses, where there is a bazaar, we employ sweepers to sweep the roads. In other places we have no sweepers.

President.—These places where people live by the side of the roads and other places, in order to keep the place, in good sanitary condition, sweepers are sanctioned. Are they not necessary Mr. Raja?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—There are some Panchayats where these sweepers do not attend to their work. They are employed for other purposes. I do not wish to mention the names.

President.—The question is one of necessity which you must look into. But if the Panchayat sweepers won't attend to the work entrusted to them, that is another matter. But from the information you have gathered, are there places where these sweepers are unnecessary?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—It is better that I do not give the names here.

President.—You had better not. Why should we needlessly offend persons who are not before us?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Now, Sir, I withdraw this motion.

Leave was given to withdraw the motion.

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President.—Now, Motion No. 29. Mr. Nunez is absent. The motion was hence deemed withdrawn.

President.—Motion No. 30, Mr. C. A. Ouseph.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I move for a reductiou of 100 rupees from the allotment of 1,42,940 under "Contribution to Village Panchayats". The object of my motion is to call the attention of this House to the necessity of separating the Panchayats from the Agricultural Department. It was during the time of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, your predecessor, that these two departments were clubbed. Ever since this Council sat, even on the second day of the last budget discussion, this point was raised and several non-official Members expressed the view that the Panchayats should be separated from the Agricultural Department, and the Diwan Peishkar in replying to the motion of the Hon'ble Member for Jews assured us that the Government was considering the matter. Afterwards, when the same question turned up again, the House was told the Government was not for a separation. I would now urge the matter for the vote of this House, and in doing so reiterate that the separation of these two departments is absolutely necessary. We have seen how important agriculture is. We have also seen that there are several difficulties in the working of the Agricultural Department. If that department is to be worked to the advantage of the ryots of the State, nothing should be tacked to it.

President.—Are you for a separate Department of Panchayats? It should not be clubbed with any other department?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes, Sir. The Panchayats are not now the active efficient units of self-government which, it was hoped, they would be by their originator, His Highness the Ex-Raja.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I entirely endorse many of the remarks which have fallen from the lips of the Member for Chalakkudi regarding this question. We do not exactly know why these two departments are clubbed together. The department was very efficiently managed when it was under a separate head. But what I want to convey to you, Sir, is that it is our intention to bring in here a Bill for the introduction of Taluk Boards so that all these Panchayats may be clubbed together under the Taluk Boards, the members of which will be members selected by the Panchayats. In this way you can get men of light and leading to take part in this work. There is a complaint that, in the Panchayats as now constituted, the members have very little power and opportunity for doing good work, so that the best men of the locality are not attracted to it. I have been able to

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ascertain the position in my own constituency and to understand that the mere separation of these two departments would not do any good. The defect is more fundamental. This question must be taken in hand and a new foundation laid on which the superstructure must be constructed. The Government must see eye to eye with the influential men of the locality. That would be the best plan to advance in this matter.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I wish to say a few words in connection with "Contribution to the Village Panchayats." I have also tabled a motion to that effect. My object in tabling my motion is not the same as that of the Hon'ble Member who proposed this. But still, I think, if I do not avail myself of this opportunity and say now what I have to say, I may not get a chance of addressing this House about this another time. In a question put by one of the Hon'ble Members as to the number of wells and tanks, roads and water *pandals* in the control of the Village Panchayats, which are not thrown open to all classes of people, I find the answer given which consists of a pretty long list of wells and tanks and roads. The list is of full three pages of closely printed matter. It would appear, after reading all this list, that, in the moffusils, where these *pandals* are opened, the depressed classes have no necessity for water. In fact, in almost every village, I find some road or tank or well or some water *pandal* not open for the depressed classes. I submit, Sir, that the fact that, even in these enlightened days, when education has advanced very far under the management of the Village Panchayats, there should exist so many public wells and tanks and roads which are not open to the poor depressed classes is a matter about which we should feel ashamed. My object in making my motion is to draw the attention of this House to this aspect of the question so that a remedy may very soon be found out. Of course, I do not want to dilate much upon this. Then, the same difficulty is experienced not only in the villages but also in the towns. There are ever so many wells under the Panchayats which the depressed classes are not allowed to make free use of—public wells which could not be touched by the depressed classes. I can quote a particular instance last year or the year before. In Tekkumbhagam, the Panchayat authorities wanted to dig a well, and they selected a site where caste-Hindus alone were permitted to go.

President.—Have you found wells near public roads which are not open to these people ?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—There are some wells which are reserved for only particular communities and not thrown open to the depressed classes. I am not in a position to say that all

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the wells we have sunk by the side of the roads are used by all classes of people.

In connection with the water *pandals*, I wish to draw the attention of this House to an interesting feature. In these *pandals* we find that water is being given to these depressed classes in a long bamboo. What a touch-me-not philanthropy.

President.—That is done in the case of distance pollution.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I do not know. The man pours the water in the bamboo at one extremity, and the thirsty man drinks the water from the other extremity. Why should you not respect their feelings also ? I submit that giving water to these poor people in this fashion is more an insult to the community than any good resulting therefrom. It is only to point out this irreconcilable thing that I brought this motion, and I have done.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I move that the question be put irreconcilable.

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—Sir, I second it

The closure motion was put and carried. The President then put the original motion to the House. It was declared lost.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I want a poll, Sir.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1.	Mr. I. E. Ambooken.	8.	Mr. C. A. Ouseph.
2.	,, Chakko Cheruvathur.	9.	,, N. Padmanabha Menon.
3.	,, O. R. Chummar.	10.	,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
4.	,, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.	11.	,, M. K. Raman.
5.	,, P. Kunju Muhammad.	12.	Dr. A. Ravunni Menon.
6.	,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja.	13.	Mr. A. B. Salem.
7.	,, K. T. Mathew.	14.	,, K. Sankaran Nambudiri.

Noes.

1.	Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.	9.	Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.
2.	,, K. Achyuta Menon.	10.	,, T. K. Krishna Menon.
3.	,, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.	11.	,, K. Krishna Pishrodi.
4.	Dr. A. Govinda Menon.	12.	,, C. Matthai.
5.	,, K. Govinda Menon.	13.	,, I. Raman Menon.
6.	,, E. Ikkanda Wariar.	14.	Sheik Abdur Qadir Sahib Bahadur.
7.	,, K. P. Kurappan.	15.	,, V. B. Vaidynatha Ayyar.
8.	Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.	16.	,, A. K. Vengu Ayyar.
		17.	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.

The remaining 3 were neutral.

The maximum time allotted for the discussion of Demand II having been reached at 5 o'clock, the President put the whole Demand for Agriculture and Panchayats to the House, and it

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was agreed to. Accordingly, the following motions were considered to have lapsed for want of time:—

Motions Nos. 31—35.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,42,940 for "Contribution to Village Panchayats" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,42,940 for "Contribution to Village Panchayats" by one rupee.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,42,940 for "Contribution to Village Panchayats" by Rs. 1,200.*

Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,55,600 for "Agriculture and Panchayats" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,55,600 under "Agriculture and Panchayats" by one rupee.*

The Council adjourned at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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